

Introduction

Before any weighing or measuring device can be sold or used in California, it must first be evaluated and approved by the Department of Food and Agriculture. This process is known as “type evaluation”.

Type evaluation is the examination of weighing or measuring devices for the legal purpose of certifying that its design and performance complies with all applicable weights and measures requirements. It is unlawful for a device to be placed into commercial use unless it is of a type approved by the Department.

Type approval examination allows new and modified devices to be examined for compliance with Weights and Measures requirements before they are installed and used in commercial applications. If any deficiencies are found during the type evaluation process, the manufacturer will be requested to correct the deficiencies.

The evaluation process examines the design, features, operating characteristics, and performance of devices for compliance with legal requirements. Its purpose is to ensure devices are accurate, reliable, and do not facilitate fraud. For most devices, it is only feasible to determine compliance to certain design related requirements under laboratory conditions. For example, its susceptibility to temperature or voltage variations, durability, stability of indication under load, integrity of adjustments, etc., are best determined under controlled conditions.

“Commercial purposes” refers to devices that are:

- Used in buying, selling, or exchanging goods, things, or commodities.
- Used in determining value of goods or services for compensation or assessment.
- Used in establishing the cost for services or hire on the basis of measurement.

“Commercial purposes” does not include devices used within a plant or business to process or manufacture a commodity that will be offered for sale after the processing or manufacturing is completed.